

Monitor

MODEL/ATOM II

A publication of the Missouri Department of Higher Education

January 6, 2004

When is this Conversion Going to Take Place?

The MODEL conversion will occur April 1-12, 2004. During this time, we will ensure that all data from our current guarantor servicing system is transferred to ASA. MODEL and ATOM II will be available for processing and disbursing loans respectively beginning on April 12 when you come back from the Easter break.

The last day for schools and lenders to use e*CLIPS to process new guarantees and make changes to existing guarantees and disbursements will be

March 30, 2004. However, e*CLIPS will continue to be available for inquiry only access through April 30, 2004. Schools will begin using the MODEL and ATOM II system on April 12. Schools using POP3 or FTP may submit files during the conversion period but they will not be processed until April 12. Files will be worked on a first-in, first-out basis. Schools who will be using MODEL Direct to submit Common Line files will need to wait until April 12 to submit their files.

We are extremely excited about our partnership with American Student Assistance (ASA) to offer you two new technologically advanced products: MODEL Direct, a web-based product that will allow you to process loans and receive real-time guarantees and ATOM II, a new and improved disbursement system which will offer increased functionality and flexibility for schools to choose when loan funds are delivered.

To keep you informed and prepare you for the conversion to these new products, we have created the MODEL/ATOM II Monitor, which we plan to send out weekly. The Monitor will provide you with information during the upcoming weeks on what you will need to do to prepare for the new system, system requirements, what differences to expect with MODEL and ATOM II, security issues, etc.

We want to make sure that we are providing you with the information you need to prepare for a successful conversion. If you have an idea for something that you would like us to include in the next MODEL/ATOM II Monitor, please let us know by e-mailing Susanne.Medley@dhe.mo.gov or calling (573) 522-1377.

What's coming up?

January - February

Customer Acceptance Testing (CAT)

late February - early March

Training

April 1-12

Conversion

April 12

Go Live!

How will I learn to use MODEL and ATOM II?

MDHE and ASA are in the process of finalizing the training schedule. We intend to do regional trainings for schools beginning in late February and extending in to March. The trainings will be conducted by MDHE and ASA staff. Intended topics to be covered during the training include an overview of the loan process (e.g., Promissory Note verification, Master Promissory Note printing, Guarantee Only and Guarantee and Print processing, mailing of promissory note, preapproval vs. non-preapproval, incomplete/reject queues); ASA and MDHE contacts; profiles; production reports; ATOM vs. ATOM II; non-netting; debit ACH; disbursement schedule; debit rosters; cancellations; simultaneous processing with ATOM; cutover time period and how to process; MODEL Direct; Gateway; batch hold and release; missing Promissory Note report; PLUS on the web; and disbursement changes. We hope to conduct the trainings in a computer training facility so that everyone can experience the new system first-hand. Training for lenders will also be offered during this time period. More information about these trainings will be available soon and appear in the MODEL/ATOM II Monitor.



Coming up next week...

It's Time for CAT!

Customer acceptance testing (CAT) is a critical step as we near conversion. All schools and lenders who submit Commonline files via POP3 and FTP will need to participate in CAT. CAT consists of clients sending a Commonline application send file which ASA tests by downloading the file to the Missouri test database in Boston. The results will be reviewed by ASA for quality and accuracy. ASA will notify each client about the results of the testing.

Lenders will also need to participate in CAT for Common Account Maintenance (CAM), proprietary files, and lender manifest. MDHE and/or ASA staff will be in touch with schools and lenders in the next few weeks to begin the process of Customer Acceptance Testing.

The goal is to complete testing by March 15, 2004. However, if needed, ASA will continue the CAT up until April 9, 2004, using a test environment which mirrors the production environment.

Check out [www.dhe.mo.gov/ model/index.htm](http://www.dhe.mo.gov/model/index.htm)

If you have any questions about MODEL and ATOM II, check out the MODEL web site at www.dhe.mo.gov/model/index.htm for background information, frequently asked questions, contact information, training schedule, and more. It has a wealth of information and it was built for you.

For questions....

regarding conversion to MODEL, contact:

Scott Giles
Director of Missouri Student Loan Group
(573) 522-1318
scott.giles@dhe.mo.gov

Susanne Medley
Director of Communications and Customer Assistance
(573) 522-1377
susanne.medley@dhe.mo.gov

regarding ATOM II, contact:

Keith Broadus
Senior Associate of Technology
(573) 526-0876
keith.broadus@dhe.mo.gov

Did you know...

That MODEL offers real-time guarantees?

What are the system requirements necessary to run MODEL?

What is going to be different (e*CLIPS vs. MODEL Direct, ATOM vs. ATOM II)